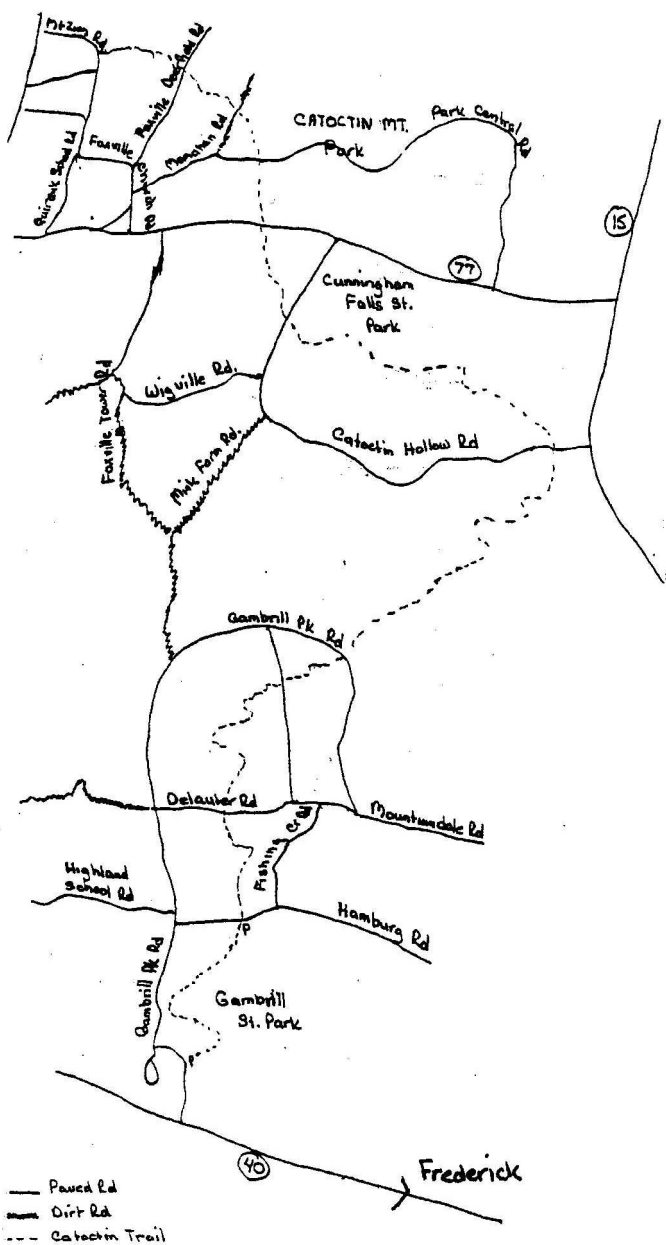


Local Walking Trail

By Marylou Stone

CATOCTIN TRAIL - HAMBURG ROAD TO GAMBRILL STATE PARK



The Catoclin Trail, marked by blue blazes, is a trail that starts at Gambrill State park and continues north through the Frederick City Watershed, Cunningham Falls State Park, and Catoclin Mountain National Park. It is 26.5 miles long and eventually ends at Mount Zion Road, 1.3 miles north of Owens Creek Campground in Catoclin Mountain National Park.

I hiked a section of the trail from Hamburg Road to the trail head parking lot in Gambrill State Park. This part of the trail was 6 miles one way. I started at Hamburg Road where there is a small parking area for about 5 cars.

The trail is rocky and there are a few small streams to cross, so tennis shoes or hiking boots are recommended. The trail is also used by mountain bikers so watch out for them.

About 1 mile from Hamburg Road the trail passes Whiskey Springs Pond. This is a great place to look for birds. The neatest part about this trail was the many different mushrooms. They were all different colors, red, white, orange, brown, pink, and purple. I had fun trying to identify them. I think I spotted the following: Common Funnel Cap, Lilac Inocybe, Alcohol Inky Cap, Red Gastroid Lactarius, and Lemon Cup. But my favorite was Antler Jelly which looks like skinny carrots growing upside down.